Inspirations from The Noble Quran Ideas for Better Life...

Volume One

Compiled by
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'La hawla wa la quwwata illa billah.'
(There is no power and no strength except with Allah)

I dedicate this humble contribution to our beloved

Prophet Muhammad and then to all elders of

Alavi family

Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Raheem Al-hamdu Lil-lahi Rabbil-'Alameen Ar-Rahmanir-Raheem Maliki Yawmid-Deen 'Iyaka Na'budu Wa 'Iyaka Nasta'een Ihdinas-Siratal-Musta-qeem Siratal-Ladheena 'An'Amta 'Alay-him Ghayril-Maghdhoubi 'Alay-him Wa La-dhalleen



Section One - Basics

Tora'th, Zaboor, Injeel and Quran are the known holy revelations from Allah Al Mighty, containing facts and guidance for the mankind. The Noble Quran is the final and latest of all. The more we read it the more we understand the realities and virtues of a successful life.

Except for the Prophet Muhammad, last of all Prophets (PBUT), encompassing the knowledge of Noble Quran is bounded by the

limitations of our still evolving understanding.

The science and knowledge evolution have made it easier though to acknowledge the facts and take guidance from the Noble Quran in verbatim. In my humble opinion, however, we can draw different insights from the Noble Quran, depending on our state of readiness to surrender our Will to the facts and guidance it contains.

Thus, no human explanations, reflections or summaries can ever substitute the Noble Quran and Sunnah.

a. Time to Ponder

 Our rational view of facts, people and opportunities are aften distorted for worse by:

- Beliefs Deep rooted assumptions and perceptions that intercept our faith
- Uncontrolled motivation Urge and greed for the immediate reward
- Sense of scarcity A false perception that blind folds our dependence on fewer opportunities and resources
- Bias Ego that restrains us moving from our conventional perceptions and positions

b. Time to Change

Reasons to live with gratitude:

- Waking up in the morning is our rebirth and it brings forth bundle of new opportunities of course wrapped in challenges; what if we don't wake up? As the day passes by and we move around, eat, learn, meet with people such are the rewards, however disguised these may be.
- Ask those who are restrained to move around by their disability or situation, can't eat due to poverty or for health reasons, fail to learn due to ignorance arrogance or lack of resources and last but not the least have relationships severed or lost.
- Above all, we die with a hope to get heaven in the life hereafter; ask those who die without this hope?

c. Power of Faith

FAITH...Accepting that none but all mighty Allah as one and only creator, sustainer and master of the Day of Judgment and Muhammad (PBUH) was the last of Allah's prophets (PBUT):

Is about surrendering to all mighty Allah, obeying HIM unconditionally and accepting the realities, with a hope and fear.

KUFAR...a manifestation of pride and arrogance:

We sometimes go in self-denial only to reiterate to ourselves that we did no wrong, when we actually have done wrong. It helps maintain peace however, false and temporary

SHIRK...lack of hope:

As we lose hope to get help from our real time savior (Allah), we start looking for alternate saviors (false deities).

Essence of Faith,

Tawakal – Al Allah; and, Trust:

Working with faith, embracing opportunities thankfully and accepting the will of Allah ST (the fate).

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Sabar - Patience and Positive outlook:

Having conviction on Allah that He shall change today's hardships and failures into ease and success tomorrow.

Tag'wah - Discipline and Self-regulation:

Fear none but Allah Alone and do no wrong, with a deep conviction that HE is the sole and ultimate Judge of how we live our lives.

d. Power of Hope

Expectations and hopes are essential to face challenges and to succeed:

Allah Al Mighty is the true and only sustainer, so expecting (hoping) from Him makes sense. It instills patience, positive outlook and courage.

Expecting (hoping) from false Gods (Satan, dead persons and ghosts) leads to mirage like situation, for one gets confidence but it turns into disappointment at the end.

Expecting (hoping) from fellow human beings leads to nowhere but lowering of self-esteem.

Power of Fear

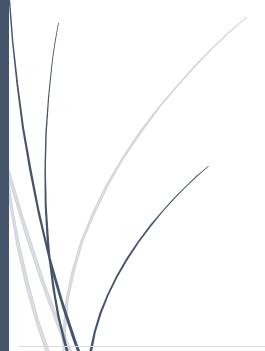
Fear is an effective deterrent against indiscipline and failures:

- Fear of standing in front of Allah Al Mighty on the Day-of-Judgment keeps wrong thoughts and actions away.
- On the contrary, fear of losing (wealth, relationships, security, etc.) leads to false paranoia and chaos, which often times rationalizes immoral actions.
- Similarly, fear of people not being pleased (not on our side) puts us in a vicious circle of doing more and more all the time to please others only to raise their expectations.

Power of Tag'wah

Tag'wah is a powerful virtue to harness actions:

- Tag'wah improves self-control and discipline
- Lack of Tag'wah makes the person's actions uncontrolled and harmful for self and others



Section II - Reflections

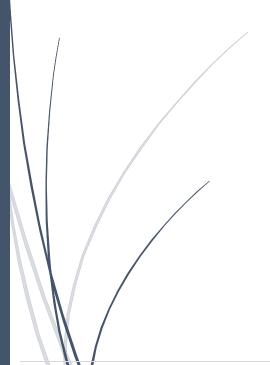
It is incumbent upon each one of us to ponder upon the wisdom of Noble Quran, individually and jointly and to take heed of and subscribe to the "virtues" given in the Noble Quran:

Develop habits (behaviors) consistent to the virtues; and, Encourage and educate others to do so.

Sura FATHEHA

Allah is the only Creator and Sustainer; He is the sole Master of the Day-of-Judgment; and, we are His creation (Slaves). Allah guides us to the path (set directions) of a successful life: Moral...

- "Submission" Submit to the Will of Allah ST Virtues...
- Live with hope from and Fear of Allah ST Respect men (women) but fear not them



Sura AL IKHLAS

Not a single creation (Big or small) is like Allah (the creator). ALLAH is one and only in His existence, characteristics and powers. Allah existed since ever and shall continue to exist forever. Allah has no parents, wife, children and siblings. Allah is the Creator alone of all the creations.

Moral...

- None has created Allah ST; He has existed since ever and shall be the only one to exist after the end of the world
- Allah ST alone is the creator, all others are His creations
- Creations can never be equal to or develop likeness of the creator

Virtues...

- Worship (invoke) none but Allah ST, the real and only creator and sustainer.
 - None can describe Allah except by his names and infinite powers (creations). None can have likeness of his mightiness.
 - Allah ST has infinite and absolute knowledge; we only know as much Allah ST has informed us. We cannot see or understand beyond our given knowledge
 - Conduct lives as per Allah's ST guidance Treat others equally and justly Allah knows better

Sura Ar-Rehman

If we honestly look at our lives, Allah's blessings and bounties on us are infinite. So, we should thank Allah every second. Death will bring even more blessings and bounties, if we live and die as pure worshipers and live on straight path.

Moral...

Gratitude

Virtues...

Give thanks to Allah ST for giving us this life and the opportunities to earn His blessings in this life and the life hereafter

Acknowledge favors others do unto you



Sura ANFAL

Among many responsibilities Allah has given to us in this life, one very important responsibility is to contribute towards establishing Justice through the rule of Allah i.e. Hence, it is incumbent that we must restrain and terminate evil first within ourselves, then in our family, then in our neighborhood and finally in the world at large.

We should live by our responsibility to Allah first with a benevolent behavior with fellow human beings, then by telling them and lastly but not solely by force. It is our social and national collective responsibility

Moral...

Justice and Rule of Law

Virtues...

Act justly without bias

Follow the rule

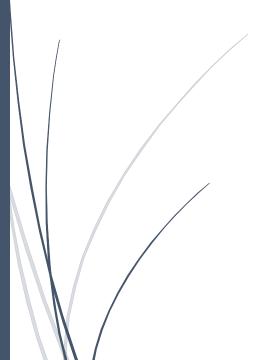
Blow the whistle against injustices and violations of the law

Sura WAD'DUHA

Allah is always with His true slave, so the slave should never doubt that He will ever abandon him at any stage what come may. In acknowledgement, the slave must thank (praise) Allah by caring and supporting the weak and the disadvantaged Moral...

- Benevolence and Care Virtues...
- Keep trust on Allah with a gratitude

 Be kind to others, especially the weak and the disadvantaged



Sura WA'QIAH

The world and all the possessions that people acquire in this world will surely come to an end, for nothing is permanent. Man (woman) will be judged on his faith and deeds alone in the life hereafter. Those who bring true faith and pure deeds will be blessed with possessions and pleasures forever in the life hereafter. Those who had lived with a disbelief and bring impure deeds will be the losers forever in the life hereafter, however, affluent and pleasurable life they had lived in this world.

Moral...

Faith

Discipline

Fear of Repercussion"

Virtues...

Hohor your faith – faith first

Self-regulation – uphold yours' and others' rights

\$ay no to shaitan (impulse, greed, disobedience and denial)

Sura AL ASR

Reveals true standard of success and failure. Success is not attaining wealth and position alone; success lies in accepting the dependent relationship with the Creator (emaan) and acting per wisdom of the Creator (doing the permissible and avoiding the prohibited), and encouraging the faith and patience

Moral...

Discipline and Patience
Virtues...

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- Live by principles and virtues
- Work with endurance and persistence
 - Educate others to be disciplined and patient

Sura AL IN'SHIQAQ

The entire universe shall come to end and so everything that exists shall also come to end to, only Allah ST shall remain. Every man (woman) is uncontrollably passing through the stages towards his/her death (towards a permeant life hereafter). Men (women) who live their lives as an inevitable journey toward the End (Death) and surrender their ego and lust to the guidance of Allah shall stand in front of Allah happily and with the hope to be blessed to enter Paradise. Men (women) who live their lives in sheer ignorance of the inevitable End (Death), and arrogance that stopped them from surrendering to Allah would still end up (die) and shall stand in front of Allah only to be punished.

Moral...

Accept the inevitable and be prepare for it Virtues...

Live with faith and discipline

Deny not the inevitable, for it will not change the course

Act at the right time and in the right direction

Sura AL-JU'MA

Allah calls (guides) his slaves to the path of success: the path to the heavens. So, it is incumbent upon the slaves to thank Him by focusing on seeking Allah's pleasure as the primary objective in whatever they do day-in day-out. Allah Has the best of livelihood: So, the slaves should be patient in seeking it in the just (halal) manner and strive to earn Allah's pleasure.

Moral...

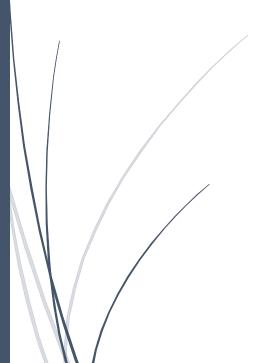
- Worshiping is at the Centre of faith and life Virtues...
- Seek Allah's pleasure and blessing in whatever one does. Allah is the best dispenser of livelihood.
- Do first thing first

Sura AL FALAQ and AN NA'AS

Glad tidings for the slaves that Allah is their ultimate protector like none else. The slaves should know that none amongst Satan, Humans and Jinns can ever cause any harm to them; so long they seek shelter from Allah.

Moral...

- Confidence & Delegation Virtues...
- Seek Allah ST protection
 Fear not men (women)
 - Act without a fear or disbelief



Sura AL MUZAMIL

Allah acknowledges the hardship (staying awake at night and standing in prayers) of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH and his companions, as an effective way to gain control over their NAFS (i.e. to forego comfort, control emotions and say no to impulse). Allah encourages such hardships to build discipline, as it brings control and correction in our lives. It will not be wrong to say this life is nothing but a preparation for the life hereafter. So, we must endure the hardship to gain self-control and discipline for a better life in this world and life hereafter.

Moral...

Hardship is prosperity

Virtues...

Say yes to hardships

Sacrifice today for a better tomorrow

Sura MULK

Allah is the Creator and Sustainer of all that exists. Allah has created humans (and Jinns) to see (or to give equal opportunity) who fear Allah and act righteously (without seeing the congregation on the judgment day) and who does not. Those who live with conviction that they shall stand in front of Allah shall be amongst the guided in this life and shall be successful on the Day of Judgment. Those who live in denial or doubt of standing in front of Allah shall be amongst wrong doers in this life and losers on the Day of Judgment, although they will accept their wrong doings on the Day of Judgment but it would then of no advantage.

Moral...

Conviction - Faith on unseen

Virtues...

Say no to doubts and deny not the inevitable

Live with firmness and commitment on the righteous path

Sura AL QIYAMA

Allah, who created men (and women) from nothing, has the power to resurrect the men (and women) in the life hereafter. Men (and women) are tiny creations of Allah, why should then men (and women) act so much arrogant (deny Allah and the Day of Judgment and disobey his Prophets). Their arrogance shall only make them undisciplined and immoral in this life and make them entitled to hell fire in the life hereafter.

Moral...

- Submission to Allah and acceptance of the inevitable Virtues...
- Refrain from denial of the truth truth is like a writing on the wall and needs no logic to accept it.
- Say no to EGO Shed arrogance Act justly

Sura ADH DAHRIYAT

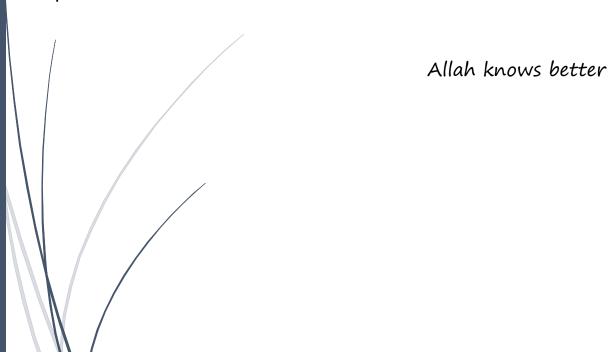
Allah has created humans and jinns to worship Him: Live their lives for Allah and seek His acceptance (pleasure) in everything they do. Allah does not ask for His livelihood from them (human and jinn): He is the one and only who is the sustainer of all that exist and, one and only master of the Day of Judgment. So, humans and jinns must thank him by obeying him in every aspect of their lives.

Moral...

Acceptance and gratitude
Virtues...

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Obey Allah ST with a gratitude Reciprocate favors on fellow humans



Sura WAQIAH

As we grow from child to adult, we carry ambitions, which give us direction and guide our efforts. In the due course, many of us are bestowed their ambitions from Allah as a reward (or test). Subsequently, we identify ourselves by the amount of wealth, status, life style, etc. ignoring that once we die, we would be just another ordinary dead person: All distinctions and status will go away except for our faith and deeds. Then on the Day of Judgment Allah will again distinguish us from each other, which will be forever, on the basis of righteousness of our faith (eman) and discipline in our deeds (tagwa). The foremost would be the near and dear ones (mugareboon): They will be the ones who shall abode in most exalted heavens by the will of Allah. The People of Right Hand: They will be the ones who shall be blessed to enter Paradise by the will of Allah. The People of Left Hand will be the losers Allah says, those who expect in this world only, We give them some and they will have nothing in the life hereafter. HE further says, those who ask for good of this life and good in the life hereafter, We give them (bless them) in this life and they will have their share in the world hereafter. We have a choice to work hard for this life alone or for the life hereafter too.

Moral...

- Vision and perseverance Aim for a brighter future
 Virtues...
- Act with long term perspective Focus on the light at the end of the tunnel. Do not let the impulse over power you.

